

Remarks

Reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-14 and 16-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, and 16 are independent. Claims 1-5, 9-14, and 16-18 have been allowed. Claims 6-8 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled claims or the original claims (i.e., the claims before the present prior amendments) in a continuation application. No new claims have been added.

The Applicant has requested that the currently disallowed claims be canceled without prejudice (independent claim 6 and dependent claims 7 and 8). Applicant will be pursuing them in a continuation.

Accordingly, the present amendment is made to place the application in condition for allowance as all current claims have been allowed.

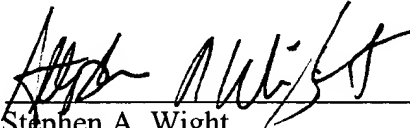
Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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